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CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. SHUTMAN ADAMS

Subject: Memorandum on Guatemalan Situation

In accordance with your request I am submitting herewith some suggested remarks for the use of the President in preparing for his meeting with Congressional leaders on Monday, April 26.

714.00/4-2454

Enclosure:

Memorandum on Guatemalan Situation

ARA:HFHolland:mk 4/24/54

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714.00/4-2454	
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MEMORANDUM ON GUATEMALAN SITUATION

It is important that in analyzing the Guatemalan problem we not make the mistake of overestimating its importance just as it is important that we not underestimate its importance. Certainly the problem is serious enough to merit our very careful study.

By every proper and effective means we should demonstrate to the courageous elements within Guatemala who are trying to purge their government of its communist elements that they have the sympathy and support of all freedom-loving people both in the United States and elsewhere in the hemisphere. We know that these patriotic Guatemalans represent the overwhelming majority of the people there. We wish them success.

There are some things which we are doing now consistent with the anti-communist resolution adopted at Caracas. We must keep ourselves informed as accurately as possible of the true situation in Guatemala. We must assemble evidence of a kind that would convince the minds of reasonable men, and showing the extent of communist penetration of the political institutions of Guatemala. In the event that this evidence should demonstrate that the international communist organization has achieved domination and control of those political institutions, we must be prepared to invoke the consultative procedure contemplated by the Rio Treaty in order that the Foreign Ministers of the American republics may immediately assemble to consider such a threat to the peace of the Americas and the adoption of appropriate means to dispel it.

I can assure you that we are proceeding along these lines with resourcefulness and energy.

I think it very important that all action by the Executive and by the Congress in this field should be carefully coordinated.

ARA:HFHolland:mk 4/24/54
In collaboration with: Amb. Peurifoy, Mr. Wisner-CIA, Mr. Leddy-MID

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